

Predictions about excessive media consolidation affecting the full and fair dissemination of information are coming true as demonstrated by Sinclair Broadcasting's plan to air an anti-Kerry documentary in the days before the upcoming presidential election.

As the FCC is aware, the public airwaves are precisely that – public. Sinclair uses them free of charge. However, by running the anti-Kerry documentary in what is clearly an attempt to sway public opinion and with no plans for a fair rebuttal, Sinclair is obviously abusing its broadcast rights, violating the public trust, and making, in effect, an illegal in-kind donation to the Bush for President campaign.

In the short term, the FCC should block Sinclair's actions and enforce the laws that are on the books. Longer term, it should commit to real reform of the use of a public resource by private companies.